

STCG Subcon Subgroup Meeting Minutes

October 19, 1999

Introductions/Announcements (Arlene Tortoso)

Arlene opened the meeting and announced that she is now the Subcon Subgroup Lead, since Fred Serier has taken a new job with DOE-RL Performance Assessment.

Review Minutes from Last Meeting (Facilitator)

The facilitator reviewed the minutes from the September 14 meeting, and no changes were requested.

In Situ Gaseous Reduction Update (Bill Bonner)

Jim Hanson has had lots of discussions recently with all the interested parties on In Situ Gaseous Reduction. A demonstration/deployment site should be selected by mid-November. It looks like the 100-D Area is the most promising, but they are looking at the 100-DR Area and the 100-KW transfer station, too. They have a geo probe and a cone penetrometer out in the 100 Areas now. Dennis Faulk asked if they have a waste-handling plan. Arlene asked if a Treatability Test Plan is to be prepared. It was stated that DOE, EPA, and Ecology expect a Treatability Test Plan to be prepared. Bill Bonner agreed to confirm this with Ed Thornton.

In Site Redox Manipulation Update (Scott Petersen)

Scott Petersen stated that dithionite was injected and withdrawn in September. The ROD should be signed this week. They cannot do the design work for the 16 new wells until it's signed. Arlene stated that ISRM is a long-term solution to our groundwater problem. A television crew was out here filming a half-hour show on this technology. People from SCFA and Hanford are in the footage. There will be a "media blitz" as soon as the ROD is signed.

Gordon Rogers said that he wants more information on technology successes at Hanford to present to the HAB. They need to hear more good news.

Enhanced Site Characterization System Update (Scott Petersen)

A white paper containing data from the 618-4 burial ground work was produced to meet the milestone. They tested a new logging technology, but it didn't give them what they needed. The GPR data looked much better with geophysical interpretation. They have \$50K from SCFA, but

they aren't sure what they will use it for. The project won't be ready to do ground-truthing until FY01. They may decide to reevaluate the old data.

New Hanford EMSP Projects (Clark Carlson)

Clark Carlson stated that 31 new EMSP awards were announced recently. PNNL has the lead on seven of them and is collaborating on another nine.

There will be an EMSP Principal Investigator Orientation Meeting on November 16-18, sponsored by the Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project. SCFA representatives will be there. SCFA is trying to focus the EMSP awards on solving site problems. Both Hanford Site problem-owners and EMSP principal investigators (PIs) will speak at the meeting. All Subgroup members are welcome to attend. Clark will send the workshop agenda to the facilitator for distribution to the Subgroup members.

The EMSP Program is trying to get the PIs more closely linked with the users at Hanford. At the end of three years of EMSP funding, the PIs must be linked up with a Hanford S&T need.

There will also be a Nuclear Materials Focus Area EMSP workshop in November that will address actinide issues. Clark will attend that workshop.

Nancy Uziemblo said that the STCG should publicize the fact that PIs are working on some of the critical issues at Hanford (e.g., technetium transport in the vadose zone beneath the tanks). Why isn't this kind of information announced in the newspaper? PNNL needs to get more publicity for their good R&D work. We need to show that we are addressing the big problems that show up in the paper. Dib Goswami suggested that we have a discussion on "Technetium Attenuation in the Vadose Zone" at a future Subgroup meeting. The consensus was that we would wait until the EMSP workshop is held and then decide if we still want a presentation in the Subgroup.

SCFA Presentation (Tom Hicks)

Tom Hicks described many ways that SCFA has helped Hanford. They helped review and select the EMSP proposals that focus on Hanford's S&T needs. They helped fund ISRM and in situ gaseous reduction to keep the technologies alive until eventual deployment. They funded an independent peer review on ISRM to overcome some technical issues that arose. The ITRD Program funded a Sr-90 project, a carbon tetrachloride project, and a tank farm infiltration project.

Wayne Martin discussed the new SCFA Lead Lab concept, the newest way that SCFA is helping Hanford and other sites. Wayne is our point of contact. The Lead Lab is a mechanism to use national laboratory resources for technical assistance to sites. The Lead lab can pull subject matter experts together to address and study critical issues or problems. They will provide quick-turnaround expertise to solve problems. The Lead Lab will provide a heightened understanding

of the issues, as well as solutions to problems.

Technical assistance requests from the sites may be prioritized or they may be addressed on a first-come, first-served basis, depending on the number of requests received. They will result in relatively short-lived activities. STCG backing of a request for technical assistance will carry more weight with SCFA.

SCFA also provides integrated support for bigger problems (e.g., ITRD and TechCon).

Mike Thompson is Hanford's representative on the SCFA User Steering Group. Jim Hanson is his backup. The Subgroup should keep them informed about our needs. Wayne will focus on special projects and technical assistance.

Jerry White said that it's critical for us to identify our needs early enough that we can utilize the SCFA services. We need to make sure the need is real and that it deserves SCFA help.

Jerry added that the new HQ performance measures include whether the Focus Areas are meeting site needs. Hanford is improving its relationship with SCFA by inviting them to these meetings to help them understand our S&T needs and issues. We need to be an active participant on the User Steering Group and the Lead Lab.

Tom asked the group if SCFA is responding adequately to Hanford's needs. Nancy answered that the Subgroup works hard on the S&T needs, but all they get back are FY00 funding plans and TTPs. She tried to do a crosswalk herself between our needs and what projects are funded. The Subgroup wants to see solutions to each need.

Dennis Faulk said that someone should be assigned to do the crosswalk. We need to go back to our old plan of reviewing the status of 2-3 S&T needs per Subgroup meeting like John April used to do. We have not done a good job of sorting out Hanford's most critical needs. We will discuss this at the December meeting.

Someone at Hanford should track what's happening relative to our needs. That person will have to work with SCFA to get the information. Bill Bonner volunteered to take a shot at doing this. Evidently SCFA developed a big package of such information in 1997 and they are planning to do it again this year.

There are 174 Subcon technology needs across the Complex, and 50 Subcon science needs.

Nancy asked what impact it would have if the STCGs went away. Tom responded that it would be a big impact if it happened at Hanford. This Subcon Subgroup is functioning exactly as it was envisioned. Jim Hanson stated that we're going to continue on the same path at Hanford. Wayne said that if a request for technical assistance comes from a contractor, he would bounce it off EPA and Ecology first.

Update on SCFA Science Funding for Hanford (Jim Hanson)

Jim Hanson had a list of the new EMSP three-year grants. Details on these projects are available on the EMSP web page at <http://emsp.em.doe.gov/>. There will be another EMSP meeting in January on Vadose Zone Transport, with a subset of the EMSP PIs at Hanford. Periodic meetings will occur over the life of the three-year projects to make sure the PIs are linked with the Hanford users.

Action Items

1. Confirm with Ed Thornton that DOE, EPA, and Ecology expect a Treatability Test Plan to be prepared for In Situ Gaseous Reduction (Bill Bonner).
2. Distribute agenda for EMSP Principal Investigator Orientation Meeting to Subgroup members (facilitator). Done.
3. Send Subcon S&T needs to Gordon Rogers (facilitator). Done.
4. Provide report on National STCG meeting at December Subgroup meeting (Jim Hanson). It is on the agenda.

Attendees

Gary Ballew (PREC)
Dave Blanchard (PNNL)
Bill Bonner (PNNL)
Craig Cameron (EPA)
Clark Carlson (PNNL)
Linda Fassbender (PNNL)
Dennis Faulk (EPA)
Dib Goswami (Ecology)
Jim Hanson (DOE-RL)
Tom Hicks (DOE-SR/SCFA)
Wayne Martin (PNNL)
Scott Petersen (BHI/TA)
Gordon Rogers (HAB)
Arlene Tortoso (DOE-RL)
Nancy Uziemblo (Ecology)
Jerry White (BHI)

Wrap-Up (Arlene Tortoso)

The next Subcon Subgroup meeting will be held on December 7 in Room 2A-01 the Bechtel Building.